MYTH versus REALITY in LUPUS

Only affects women

- ~90% of people with lupus are women. It strikes the male population too, and tends to be more severe in men.  

Easy to diagnose

- No single test to definitively diagnose lupus and it affects every patient differently. On average it takes nearly six years for a correct lupus diagnosis, from when symptoms are first noticed.

A skin disease

- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) makes up ~70% of all lupus cases and can affect other parts of the body, including major organs such as the kidney, lung, heart and brain. Cutaneous lupus (affecting only the skin) makes up ~10% of lupus cases.

Non-fatal

- Five-year survival has improved to over 90% from a low of 50% in the 1950s. Complications remain a major cause of mortality and morbidity.

References